

PID 22/63
TCS 1098/63-KH
5 February 1963
Copy 3 of 3

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Director, NPIC

FROM: Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)

SUBJECT: Advantages of Stereoscopic Photographic Coverage Versus Non-Stereo Coverage for Photo Interpretation Purposes

1. There is no question that the use of stereo coverage greatly increases both the quality and quantity of readout from photography. For rapid readout and immediate identification, monocular viewing is usually adequate. However, for the extensive details and for the most accurate and complete analysis, stereo examination is necessary.

2. It is the experience of photo interpreters within this division that stereo coverage offers the following advantages over non-stereo coverage:

(a) Image enhancement: The stereo viewing enhances the quality of the image as presented on the photography. Therefore, many installations and items can be more readily identified.

(b) Edge definition: Stereo more clearly defines the image being viewed. Not only is edge definition enhanced but also radial displacement and distortion due to relief is overcome to a large degree.

(c) Depth perception: Perception of depth in stereo viewing is a definite asset in a detailed analysis. More positive identifications can be made in stereo coverage due to height and depth factors.

(d) Provides better perspective of configuration: Often in photography there is a lack of tone and definite shadow, both of which are often good identification features. Stereo capability definitely compensates for such deficiencies, as well as provides better perspective of drainage, terrain and vegetation in relation to logical location of features.

(e) Increase in usability due to double coverage: Oftentimes this double coverage factor overcomes a percentage loss in photo interpretation due to haze, clouds and poor quality of single image viewing.

25X1B